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ICL NETS CONTRACT FOR BIRMINGHAM TRANSIT INFO SYSTEM

Intelligent Highway, v5, n2, pN/A

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TEXT:

A consortium led by ICL Enterprises near Reading, U.K. has secured a 1.2 million pounds sterling contract to develop a real-time travel information service for Birmingham's transit network. Other consortium members include British Rail Computing; Lumiplan, a French telematics company; and WS Atkins, a transport planning consultancy.

ICL, Britain's largest computer company, was one of three short-listed firms vying for the contract. The unsuccessful bidding teams were led by British Aerospace/SEMA and IBM.

GPS-based AVL for 50 Buses

The Birmingham system will feature an automatic vehicle location (AVL) system for a portion of the local bus fleet, which will be used to provide real-time bus scheduling information to transit riders. The system will also recommend **alternative** transportation modes and routes to passengers through specially designed interactive terminals.

CENTRO, the public transport agency for the West Midlands, commissioned the developmental system. If successful, the transit information service could be expanded throughout Birmingham and later the Midlands.

Initially, 50 buses on two main routes in Birmingham will be fitted with AVL gear. Current plans call for using satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

The AVL system will indicate the precise position of the buses along the two routes. Bus positioning information, including expected arrival times of the next three buses, will be displayed on terminals at bus stops along the routes. There will also be new interactive travel terminals both on the street and at conveniently located "travel shops," which will enable passengers to calculate transit routes -- by bus or train -- to selected destinations. The interactive terminals will also provide information about expected delays, special events and fares. Additionally, a new telephone "hotline" inquiry service will enable public transport staff to provide customers with travel details more quickly.

ICL claims the completed system will have few rivals. "By combining the latest navigational and computing techniques, we will provide a passenger information system that matches the best in the world," says Bob Broadbent, ICL's senior manager for major projects.

Partial Funding from DRIVE's QUARTET

The new system, which is being funded in part by the DRIVE QUARTET project, is expected to be operational by the summer of 1994. If it proves popular, Birmingham's transport officials are likely to provide funding for additional RTI systems in the future. Some of the ideas currently under discussion include real-time traffic information services for use in public places and in private homes.

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? s ICL (s) nets		
	7438	ICL
	15919	NETS
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Other tips include...

25/3,K/17 (Item 7 from file: 16)  
DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R)  
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03472004 Supplier Number: 44848438 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT)  
**Queensland Shines Spotlight On Off-Beat Attractions**  
Tour & Travel News, v0, n0, p56  
July 18, 1994  
Language: English Record Type: Fulltext  
Document Type: Magazine/Journal; Trade  
Word Count: 1004

... heritage and culture, upscale and budget vacations. For instance, the North Queensland portion of the 60-page booklet features tourist association contacts for that area, **transportation options** and 30 separate **suggested** itineraries from one to eight days. The brochure is specifically **designed** for travel agents and tour operators developing itineraries for their clients.

The U.S. is a mature market for Queensland, so specialized packages are important, according to...

25/3,K/18 (Item 8 from file: 16)  
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03250803 Supplier Number: 44470369 (USE FORMAT 7 FOR FULLTEXT)  
**A Fine Romance: The public is catching on to the allure of train travel; now Amtrak hopes to woo more agent support**  
Travel Agent, v0, n0, p67  
Feb 28, 1994  
Language: English Record Type: Fulltext  
Document Type: Magazine/Journal; Trade  
Word Count: 983

... A) western train can be a luxurious way to go; they can have all their meals in their room.'

If time is a barrier to **train travel**, Amtrak suggests its 'Air - Rail **Travel Plan**,' now in its third year, offered in conjunction with United Airlines. Essentially, travelers take the train one way and fly the other. 'Air-Rail' journeys...

25/3,K/19 (Item 9 from file: 16)  
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